FROM GIRLS TO ADULTS

少女から大人へ…

プチコミック

毎月24日発売

FOR SALE EVERY MONTH ON THE 24TH

SYNOPSIS

WITH A CONFESSION FROM SUMIRE, YURI'S LOVE FOR HIM HAS AT LAST BECOME MUTUAL. BUT HER DELIGHT IS SHORT LIVED, WITH A NEW UPROAR OVER SHOUKO'S PREGNANCY. IN ADDITION, SHOUKO WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUMIRE AND YURI, AND WOULD NOT CORRECT THE FAMILY REGISTER FOR YURI. AND THERE, A MAN CALLING HIMSELF YURI'S UNCLE APPEARS...!?

VOLUME 15 OF 'PETIT COMICS' BELOVED SERIALIZATION, "BARA NO TAME NI."

FLOWER COMICS

薔薇のために 15

フラワーコミックス

吉村明美

AKEMI YOSHIMURA

薔薇のために 15

吉村明美

小学館

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SYNOPSIS

CONFESSED TO BY SUMIRE, YURI HAS HER LOVE RETURNED BY HIM. AND YET, MOTHER SHOUKO IS STRONGLY OPPOSED. AS THINGS ARE, WITH YURI'S FAMILY REGISTER NOT CORRECTED, SHE CANNOT MARRY SUMIRE. AND THERE, A MAN CALLING HIMSELF YURI'S UNCLE APPEARS!?

AKEMI YOSHIMURA @ FC

BARA NO TAME NI ①～⑮

KIRINKAN GRAFFITI, ALL 13 VOL

KIRINKAN GRAFFITI, SPINOFF

● THE AKEMI YOSHIMURA COLLECTION

① SNOW BALLAD

② I WANT TO HOLD YOU TIGHT

③ "INTO THE NIGHT..."

④ THE LAST MESSAGE

● FLOWER COMICS SPECIAL

STATION

AKEMI YOSHIMURA'S PROFILE

♥ BORN MARCH 5TH, A PISCES. BLOOD TYPE O. BORN IN NAGASAKI, RAISED IN YOKOHAMA, CURRENTLY LIVING IN SAPPORO.

♥ SHE MADE HER DEBUT AT PETIT COMICS IN OCTOBER 1980 WITH "MACHIBOUKE HANA". FOR "BARA NO TAME NI", SHE WAS PRESENTED WITH THE 34TH SHOUGAKUKAN MANGA AWARD.

♥ SHE ADORES CATS. AT THE MOMENT, SHE PASSES HER DAYS PLAYING WITH THREE OF THEM...

♥ CURRENTLY ACTIVE AT PETIT COMICS!

"BARA NO TAME Ni"
(FOR THE ROSE)

薔薇のために

15

吉村明美

AKEMi YOSHiMURA

＊プチコミフラワーコミックス＊

薔薇のために

15

吉村明美

Bara no Tame ni
(For The Rose)

15

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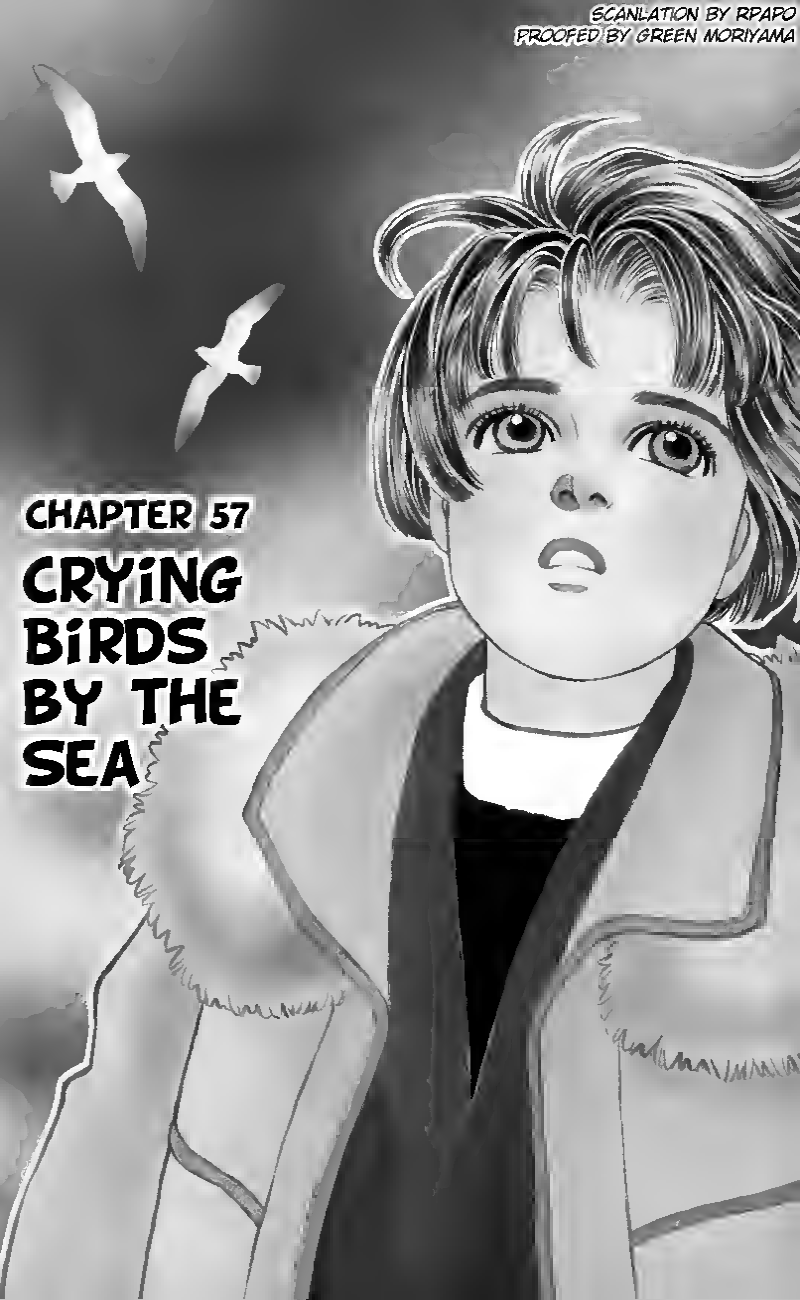
WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

MAKURANO YURI, SEPARATED FROM HER GRANDMOTHER BY DEATH, BEGAN LIFE WITH HER MOTHER AND HALF-SIBLINGS IN THE HANAYASHIKI HOUSE IN SAPPORO. WITH MOTHER SHOUKO AT THE HEAD, ALL OF THE FAMILY HAD EXTREMELY GOOD LOOKS AND POSSESSED VERY STRONG CHARACTERS. BEFORE LONG, YURI CHERISHED FEELINGS OF LOVE FOR HER OLDER BROTHER, SUMIRE. HOWEVER, YURI LEARNED THAT SHE WAS NOT SHOUKO'S DAUGHTER. AS IT WAS, YURI GOT TO STAY IN THE HANAYASHIKI HOUSEHOLD, BUT SEEING SUMIRE EVERY DAY ONLY MADE HER FEELINGS TOWARD HIM GROW STRONGER. SUMIRE EVEN NOW LOVED HIS DEAD LOVER SERI, BUT GRADUALLY BEGINNING TO HOLD SPECIAL FEELINGS FOR YURI, FINALLY CONFESSED TO HER. WITH THAT MATTER CLEARED UP, THEY FELL IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER, BUT SHOUKO WAS OPPOSED TO IT...

* FOR THE FULL STORY, PLEASE REFER TO VOLUMES 1-14 OF "BARA NO TAME NI."

SCANLATION BY RPADO
PROOFED BY GREEN MORIYAMA



CHAPTER 57
CRYING BIRDS BY THE SEA

WHENEVER THE NAME "SAKURAI MOEKO" CAME OUT OF MY MOUTH,

IT WAS ALWAYS THE NAME OF A STRANGER.

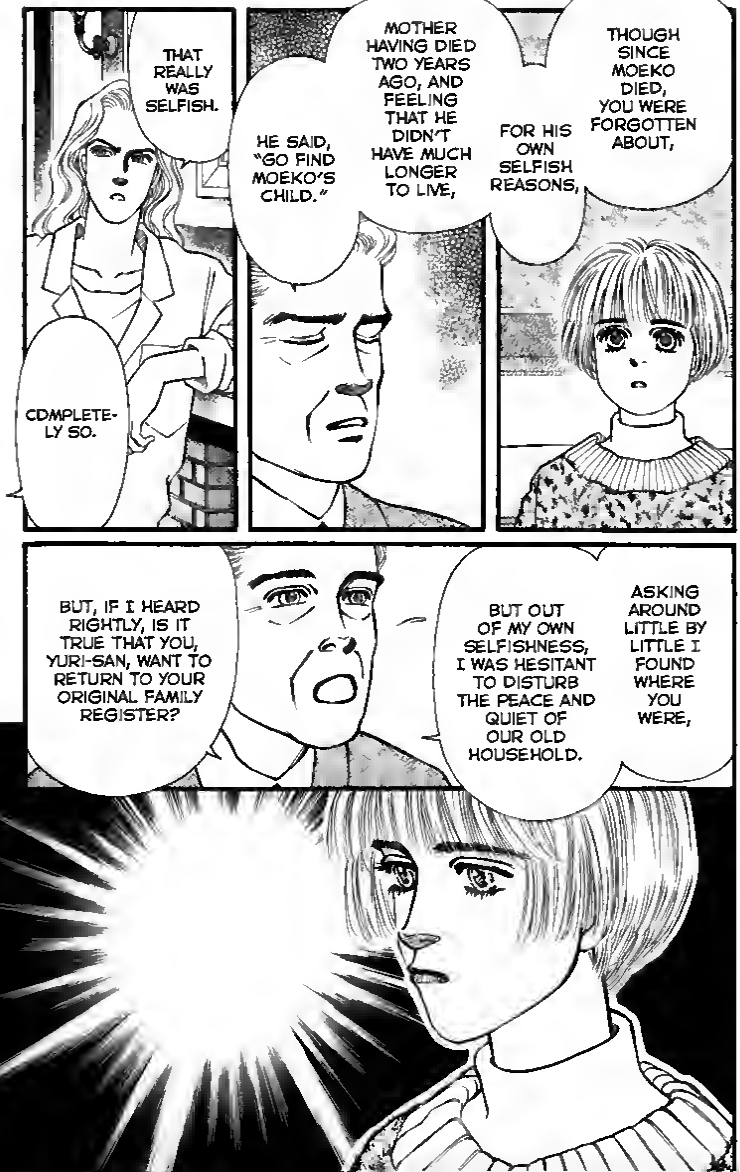
SHE WAS THE PERSON THAT GAVE BIRTH TO ME,

AND YET SHE WAS SOMEBODY FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE THAT I DID NOT KNOW.

I WOULD LIKE YOU TO RETURN HOME WITH ME.
IN FACT, WHEN WE'RE DONE TALKING,
YURI-SAN,

AT THE TIME MOEKO SECRETLY GAVE BIRTH TO YOU,
OUR FATHER,
IN OTHER WORDS YOUR GRAND-FATHER,
DIS-INHERITED MOEKO.
WHERE WAS MOEKO-SAN'S HOME?
IT WAS OTARU*
EVEN FOR OTARU, OURS IS A WELL ESTABLISHED BREWERY.
AS AN OLD FASHIONED FATHER, HE SAID SHE HAD TARNISHED THE FAMILY NAME...

* OTARU! A CITY NOT FAR WEST OF SAPPORO, KNOWN FOR ITS BREWERIES, GLASSWORK AND MUSIC BOXES


THAT REALLY WAS SELFISH.
COMPLETELY SO.
HE SAID, "GO FIND MOEKO'S CHILD."
MOTHER HAVING DIED TWO YEARS AGO, AND FEELING THAT HE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH LONGER TO LIVE,
FOR HIS OWN SELFISH REASONS,
THOUGH SINCE MOEKO DIED, YOU WERE FORGOTTEN ABOUT,
BUT, IF I HEARD RIGHTLY, IS IT TRUE THAT YOU, YURI-SAN, WANT TO RETURN TO YOUR ORIGINAL FAMILY REGISTER?
BUT OUT OF MY OWN SELFISHNESS, I WAS HESITANT TO DISTURB THE PEACE AND QUIET OF OUR OLD HOUSEHOLD.
ASKING AROUND LITTLE BY LITTLE I FOUND WHERE YOU WERE,

NOW JUST HOLD ON.
BY 'RETURN', DO YOU MEAN FOR YURI TO LEAVE HERE AND LIVE AT THE SAKURAI HOUSE?
BY ALL MEANS, WE'D LIKE YOU TO RETURN!
SUCH GOOD TIMING!
AND AT ANY RATE HE'S GETTING OLD. HE WILL TURN 80 NEXT YEAR.
NO MATTER HOW GOOD A GRANDFATHER HE IS, HE REALIZES THAT SUCH TALK IS TOO GOOD TO COME TRUE.
I'M NOT SAYING TO DO IT AT ONCE.
WHAT A PITY.
YURI'S GETTING MARRIED.
THOUGH IT BE FOR ONLY A SHORT WHILE.
GRANDFATHER IS GROWING IMPATIENT TO LIVE WITH HIS GRANDCHILD IN NAME AND TRUTH,

WE DON'T WANT TO BE FIGHTING OVER WHETHER SHE WANTS TO BE THE GRANDDAUGHTER OF A GRANDFATHER WHO'S BEEN A TOTAL STRANGER SINCE THE DAY SHE WAS BORN!
WE'RE FIGHTING OVER THE FAMILY REGISTER.
THE OTHER PARTY IS THE ELDEST SON OF THIS HOUSE.
THIS IS NOT A BAD DEAL AT ALL AS FAR AS YURI-SAN IS CONCERNED!!
ISN'T THAT ALL THE MORE REASON TO PUT THE FAMILY REGISTER IN ORDER!?
I KNEW ABOUT THE MARRIAGE.
YOU AREN'T GOING TO LIE TO HER.
WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO MAKE AMENDS FOR UP TO NOW!
YOU COULD LIVE TOGETHER WITH US UNTIL YOU BECOME A BRIDE.

FROM WHAT I JUST HEARD,
YOU'RE REALLY PLAYING THE PART OF 'GOOD PERSON.'
MOTHER!
YOUR CHECK-UP?
IT WENT OKAY.
DON'T LET HIM FOOL YOU.
BECAUSE THIS FELLOW IS A REAL BAD GUY.
HEY SHOUKO, WHAT'RE YOU...
LISTEN UP, SHIGERU.
IF YOU THINK THAT BECAUSE MOEKO AND I HAD A FIGHT AND SEPARATED,
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING MORE YOU ARE VERY MUCH MISTAKEN.

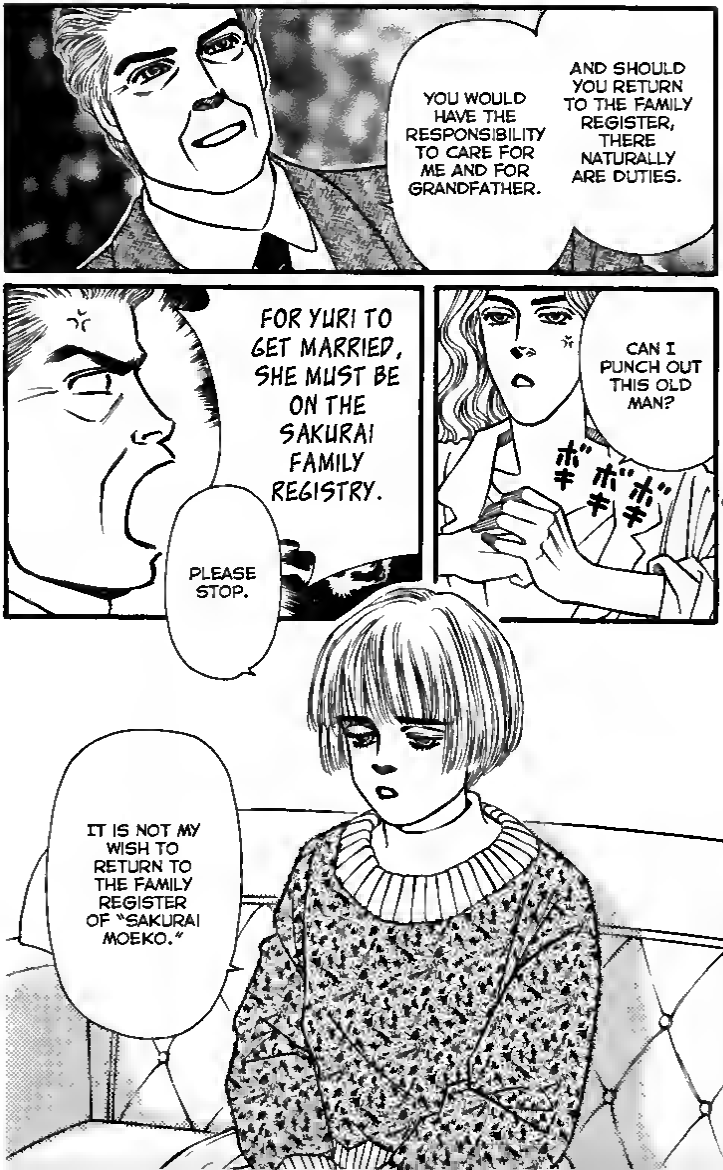
IT IS NOT AT ALL IMPOSSIBLE!
BECAUSE HE COULDN'T HAVE SAID IT.
THERE'S NO WAY THAT OLD MAN WOULD HAVE SAID "GO FIND MOEKO'S CHILD" NOR THAT HE WANTED HIS GRANDCHILD TO LIVE WITH HIM.
HE SAID THAT IN WHAT SHORT LIFE REMAINS TO HIM, TO BE WITH THE GRANDCHILD HE NEVER KNEW..
CERTAINLY SINCE HIS STROKE HE'S SLEPT AND RISEN, BUT FOR THAT VERY REASON,
I'M SAYING THAT'S A LIE.
THAT OLD MAN FOUND OUT LONG AGO THAT YURI HAS BEEN LIVING HERE.

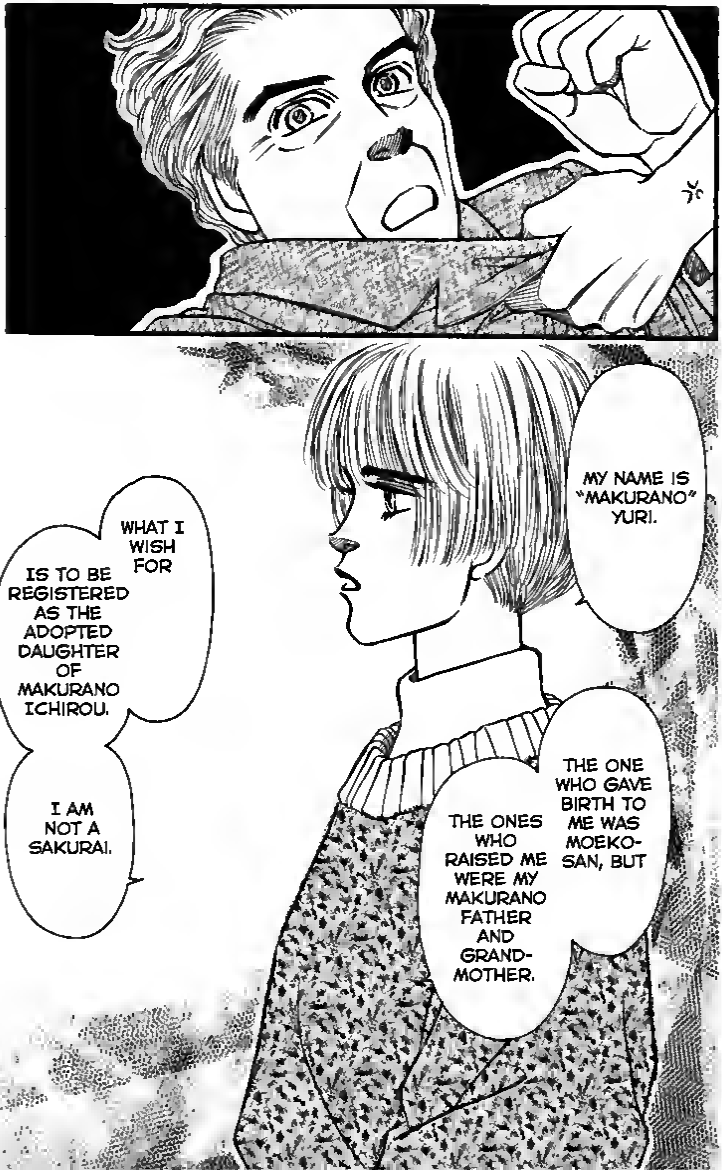
AT ANY RATE, THIS GUY STOLE ALL THE INHERITANCE THAT SHOULD HAVE GONE TO MOEKO.
PROBABLY SO THAT HIS SON, IN OTHER WORDS, SHIGERU HERE, WOULDN'T PLAY THE BIG SHOT.
IF HE KNEW, THEN WHY DID HE SET THE MATTER ASIDE!?
CHANGING HIS TUNE SO SUDDENLY EVEN THOUGH MOEKO'S CHILD
WOULD ONLY BE A NUISANCE TO THIS GUY?
WHILE HIS MOTHER HAD DIED, AND HIS FATHER SICK IN THE HOSPITAL, EH?
SOUNDS TO ME LIKE HE WANTS TO PUSH THE BOTHER OF A SICK PARENT ON YURI.

WHAAAT!?
HMPH! ONCE YOU DRAG AWAY HIS GRAND-DAUGHTER 'IN NAME AND TRUTH',
YOU PLAN TO MAKE HER CARE FOR HER GRAND-FATHER UNTIL SHE MARRIES.
AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, TAKE HIM WITH HER ONCE SHE'S MARRIED.
HOW RUDE!
THERE IS A LIMIT TO HOW MALICIOUS YOU CAN ASSUME ME TO BE.
IT WOULD BE POINTLESS TO PUSH THE CARE OF MY PARENT ON A BRIDE TO BE!

YOU HAD YOURSELF A SECRET PLAN: ONCE YURI AND SUMIRE GET MARRIED, THEN, THROUGH YURI,
YOU WOULD KEEP AN EYE ON WHAT'S LEFT OF THE HOUSE'S FORTUNE, RIGHT?
OF COURSE YOU DID, BUT THAT'S NOT ALL.
YOU SAID YOU KNEW THEY WERE GETTING MARRIED.
YOU'VE BEEN THAT KIND OF GUY SINCE THE OLD DAYS.
IT WAS BECAUSE MOEKO HATED YOU THAT SHE LEFT FOR TOKYO.
WHAT IS THIS "MAKE AMENDS FOR UP TO NOW"!?
WON'T YOUR MOUTH ROT FROM YOUR OWN WORDS!?
LEAVE HERE AT ONCE!!

IT'S ANNOYING WHEN YOU GET SO FULL OF YOURSELF.
LOOK THERE! HE'S SHOWING HIS TRUE COLORS.
WHATEVER YOU TRY TO SAY, YURI IS MOEKO'S CHILD.
SHE IS OF THE SAKURAI HOUSE-HOLD.
I FIGURE THAT YURI HAS BEEN SAYING SHE WANTED TO RETURN TO HER ORIGINAL FAMILY REGISTER.
NO MATTER WHAT YOU TRY TO DO, YOU HAVE NO CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING LEGALLY.
BECAUSE IT IS SURELY THE HOPE OF THE PERSON HERSELF.


AND SHOULD YOU RETURN TO THE FAMILY REGISTER, THERE NATURALLY ARE DUTIES.
YOU WOULD HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO CARE FOR ME AND FOR GRANDFATHER.
CAN I PUNCH OUT THIS OLD MAN?
SFX: CRUNCH, CRUNCH
FOR YURI TO GET MARRIED, SHE MUST BE ON THE SAKURAI FAMILY REGISTRY.
PLEASE STOP.
IT IS NOT MY WISH TO RETURN TO THE FAMILY REGISTER OF "SAKURAI MOEKO."

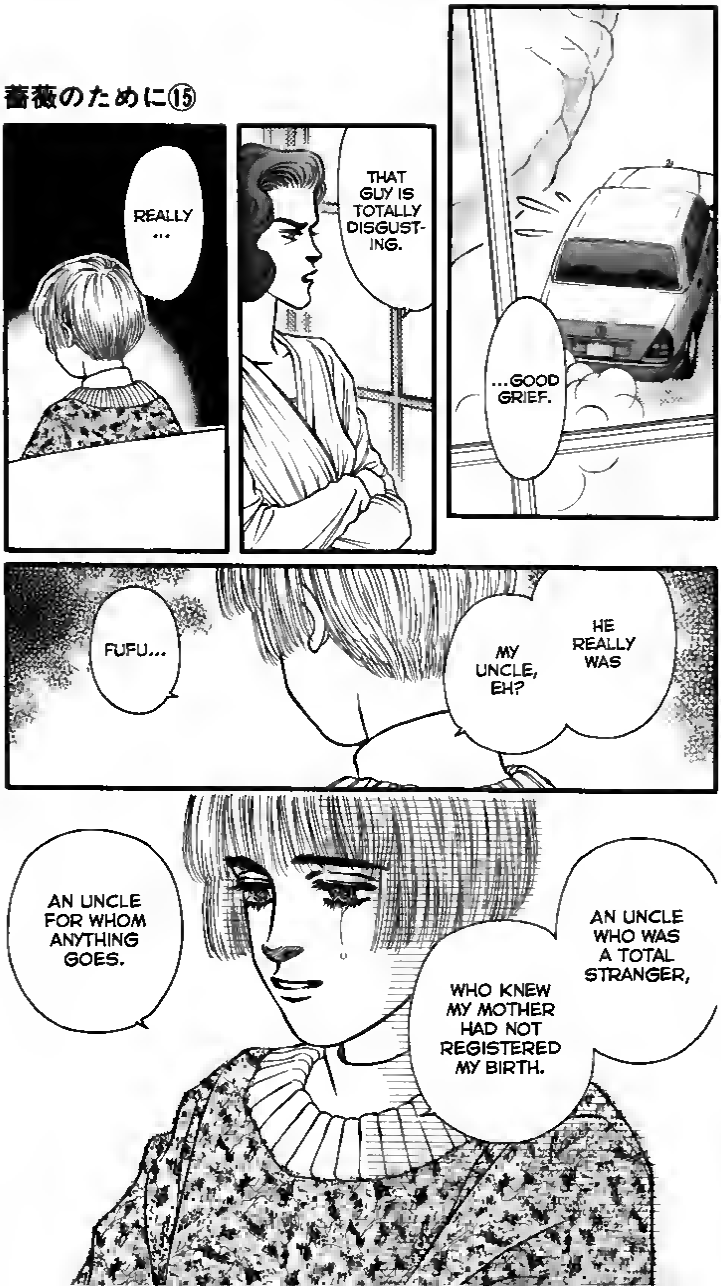

MY NAME IS "MAKURANO" YURI.
THE ONE WHO GAVE BIRTH TO ME WAS MOEKO-SAN, BUT
THE ONES WHO RAISED ME WERE MY MAKURANO FATHER AND GRAND-MOTHER.
I AM NOT A SAKURAI.
WHAT I WISH FOR IS TO BE REGISTERED AS THE ADOPTED DAUGHTER OF MAKURANO ICHIROU.

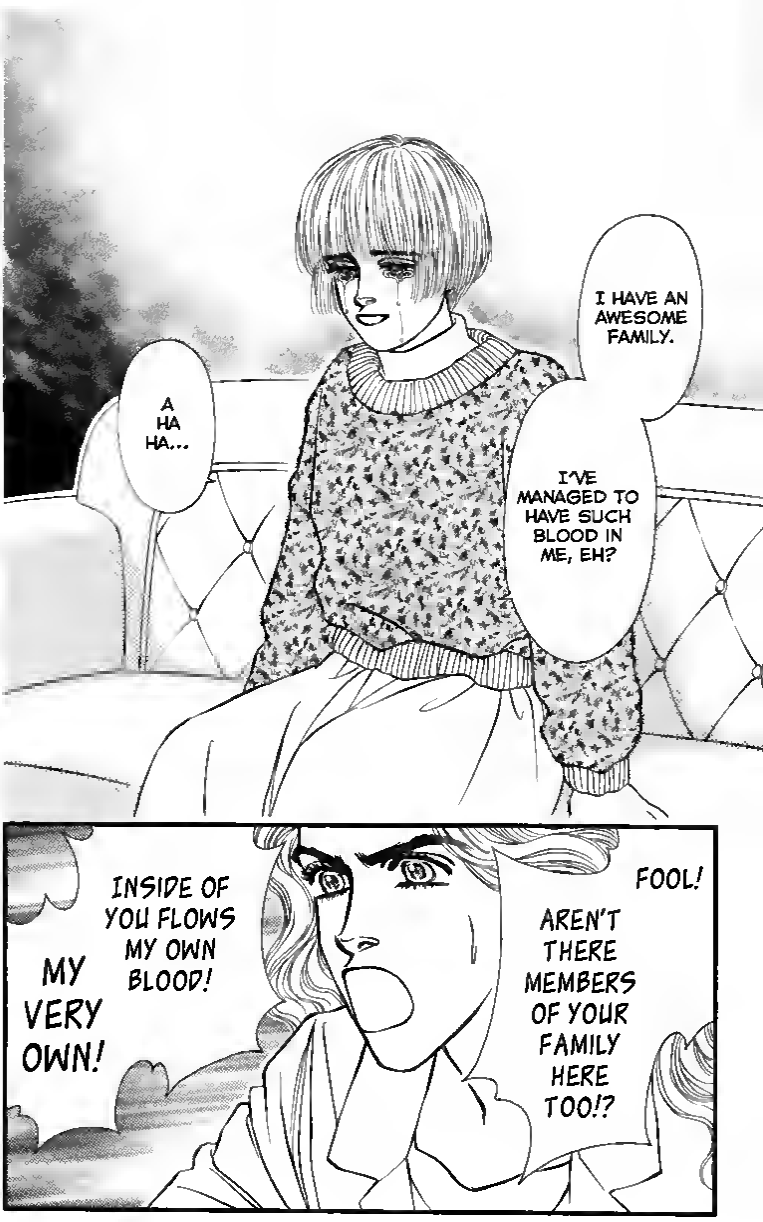
RATTLE!
IF MOTHER AGREES, IT WILL SIMPLY PROGRESS MORE SMOOTHLY.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANTED TO SAY JUST NOW!
THERE IS NO LEGAL WAY FOR THE SAKURAI FAMILY TO INTERVENE.
THIS IS THE NUMBER ONE VALID LEGAL OPTION.
HOW ABOUT A WORD OF APOLOGY?
I'M LEAV-ING!!

HE MADE HIS PARENTS PAY FOR BOTH HIS WEDDING AND THE HONEY-MOON.
HE'S DONE NOTHING BUT SPONGE OFF HIS PARENTS SINCE HE DROPPED OUT OF COLLEGE.
HE PROBABLY DOESN'T HAVE THE NERVE TO DO IT.
WHEN HIS GRANDFATHER DIES, HE PLANS ON SELLING OFF THE ESTATE AND MAKING A SUPERMARKET.
THANKS TO THAT, THE SHOP ENDED IN HIS GRAND-FATHER'S GENERA-TION.
THE FAMILY BUSINESS FAILED AND THEY COULDN'T LIVE TO-GETHER.
IN SPITE OF LIVING OFF THE RENTAL INCOME,
HE MADE THEM BUILD A CONDO ON THE LAND THAT WOULD HAVE GONE TO MOEKO.
ON TOP OF THAT, HE ASKED THEM TO BUILD A HOUSE ON HIS PARENT'S LAND.

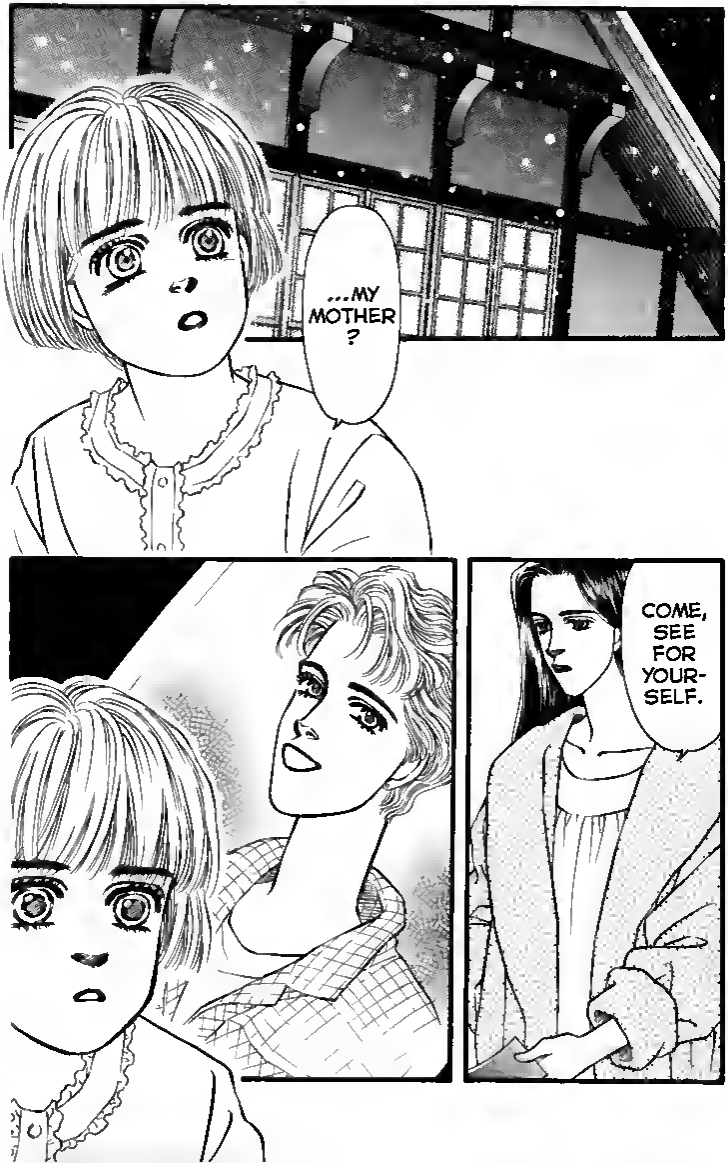
AND YOU ARE TRYING TO PUSH THE RESPONSIBILITIES ON TO YURI, WHO YOU'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.
AFTER ALL HIS PARENTS DID FOR HIM!
WHAT SCUM!
BUT I HAVE BETTER SOURCES OF INFORMATION.
IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE, DON'T EVER COME NEAR THIS HOUSE AGAIN.
YOU PROBABLY RELIED ON A PRO TO CHECK US OUT,
YOU, HEAR THIS.
AOI!
CALL THE POLICE!!
HOUSE-KEEPER!
SALT!

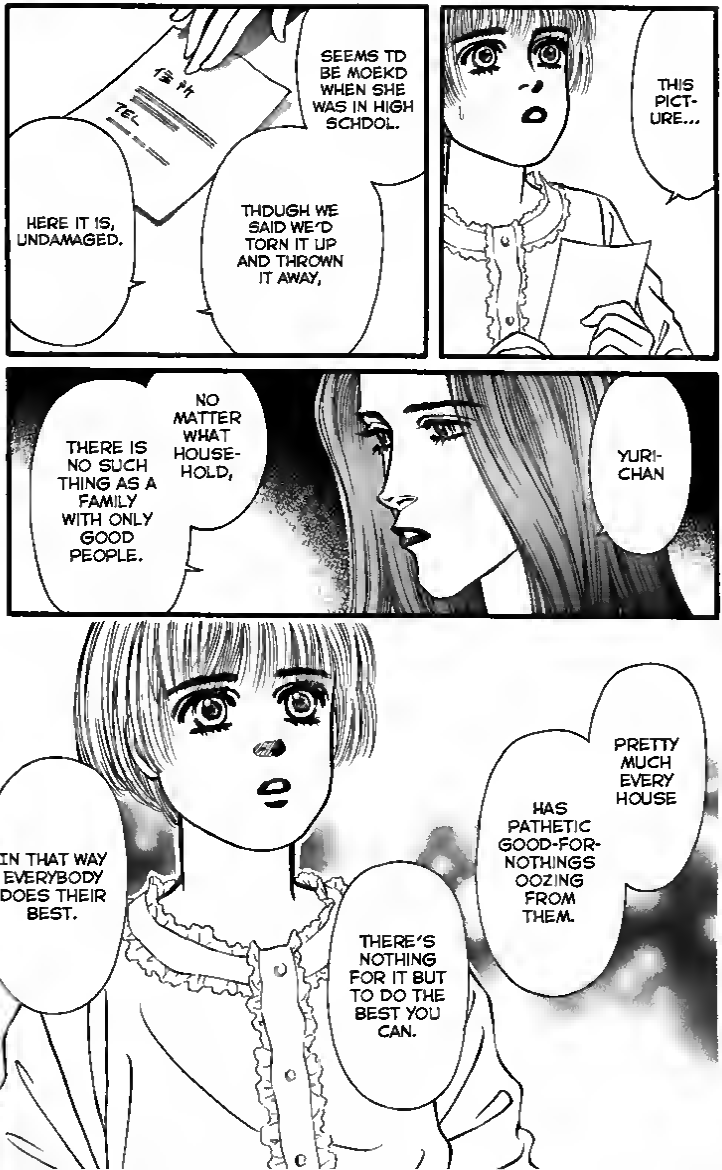
T/N: THE SALT IS NEEDED TO PURIFY THE HOUSE OF THE MISFORTUNE HE BROUGHT WITH HIM. SHE IS IMPLYING HE IS A GOD OF MISFORTUNE. THIS IS A GRAVE INSULT.


REALLY ...
THAT GUY IS TOTALLY DISGUSTING.
...GOOD GRIEF.
FUFU...
MY UNCLE, EH?
HE REALLY WAS
AN UNCLE FOR WHOM ANYTHING GOES.
WHO KNEW MY MOTHER HAD NOT REGISTERED MY BIRTH.
AN UNCLE WHO WAS A TOTAL STRANGER,


I HAVE AN AWESOME FAMILY.
I'VE MANAGED TO HAVE SUCH BLOOD IN ME, EH?
A HA HA...
FOOL!
AREN'T THERE MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY HERE TOO!?
INSIDE OF YOU FLOWS MY OWN BLOOD!
MY VERY OWN!

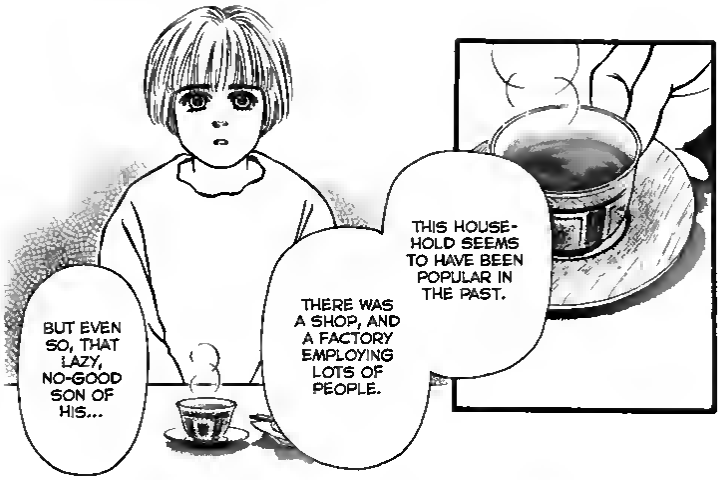
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH SUCH AS THEM!!


...MY MOTHER ?
COME, SEE FOR YOUR-SELF.

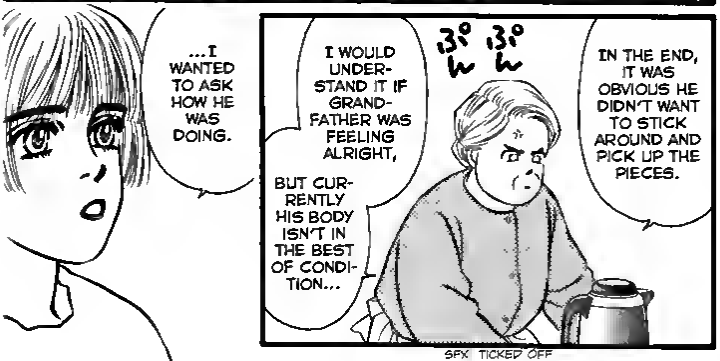

SEEMS TO BE MOEKO WHEN SHE WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL.
HERE IT IS, UNDAMAGED.
THOUGH WE SAID WE'D TORN IT UP AND THROWN IT AWAY,
THIS PICTURE...
YURI-CHAN
NO MATTER WHAT HOUSEHOLD,
THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A FAMILY WITH ONLY GOOD PEOPLE.
PRETTY MUCH EVERY HOUSE
HAS PATHETIC GOOD-FOR-NOTHINGS OOZING FROM THEM.
IN THAT WAY EVERYBODY DOES THEIR BEST.
THERE'S NOTHING FOR IT BUT TO DO THE BEST YOU CAN.

BECAUSE YURI-CHAN IS YURI-CHAN.

IF YOU'RE SPEAKING OF THE MASTER, HE'S GONE TO THE CLINIC TO FETCH HIS MEDICINE.
UMM...
YEAH, HE'S BEEN REHABILI-TATED FOR A WHILE NOW.
IT'S ABOUT TIME HE RETURNED, SO PLEASE, COME IN.
IS HE OKAY GOING OUT?
WELL, COME IN.
NO, I'M A NEIGHBOR.
IT'S BECAUSE HE CARED FOR OUR GRANDFATHER LONG AGO, SO I'M RETURNING THE FAVOR.
ME?
EXCUSE ME, BUT ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY?

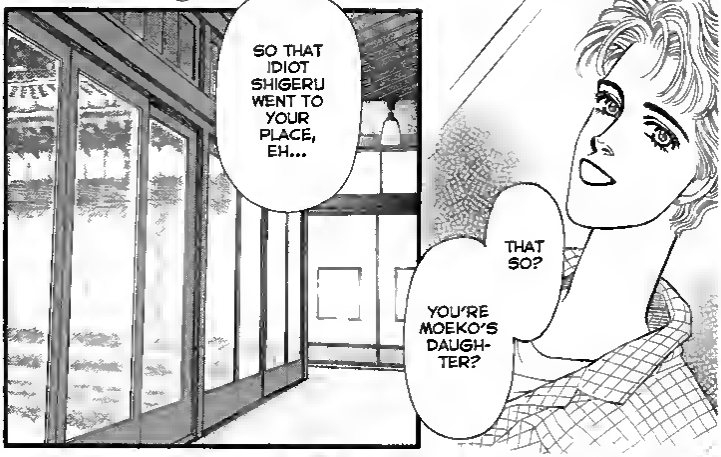

THIS HOUSEHOLD SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN POPULAR IN THE PAST.
THERE WAS A SHOP, AND A FACTORY EMPLOYING LOTS OF PEOPLE.
BUT EVEN SO, THAT LAZY, NO-GOOD SON OF HIS...

HE'D SAY HE WAS STARTING SOME PROJECT, AND THEN IT WOULD FAIL.
HE'D RUN THROUGH FUNDS AS IF THEY WERE WATER.
BECAUSE OF THAT, AFTER GRANDMOTHER PASSED AWAY,
THE ESTATE AND EVERYTHING HERE WAS LEFT TO CRUMBLE AWAY...


...I WANTED TO ASK HOW HE WAS DOING.
I WOULD UNDERSTAND IT IF GRANDFATHER WAS FEELING ALRIGHT,
BUT CURRENTLY HIS BODY ISN'T IN THE BEST OF CONDITION...
IN THE END, IT WAS OBVIOUS HE DIDN'T WANT TO STICK AROUND AND PICK UP THE PIECES.
SFX: TICKED OFF

HE'S GOT SOME LEFTOVER NUMBNESS IN HIS LEFT HAND AND FOOT.
SINCE HE COLLAPSED, LET'S SEE...
THOUGH HE HIMSELF SAYS HE'S FINE...
WELL, IF YOU SPEAK OF AGE, THEN HE'S UP THERE.
IS HE IN REALLY BAD SHAPE?
HE'S BACK.
THEN, CAN HE TALK NORMALLY?
YEAH, PRETTY MUCH.
AH
BUT DON'T SPEAK ABOUT HIS SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW.
IF YOU SPEAK OF THEM, HE'LL PROBABLY THINK IT'S SOME PLOT OF THAT SON OF HIS.

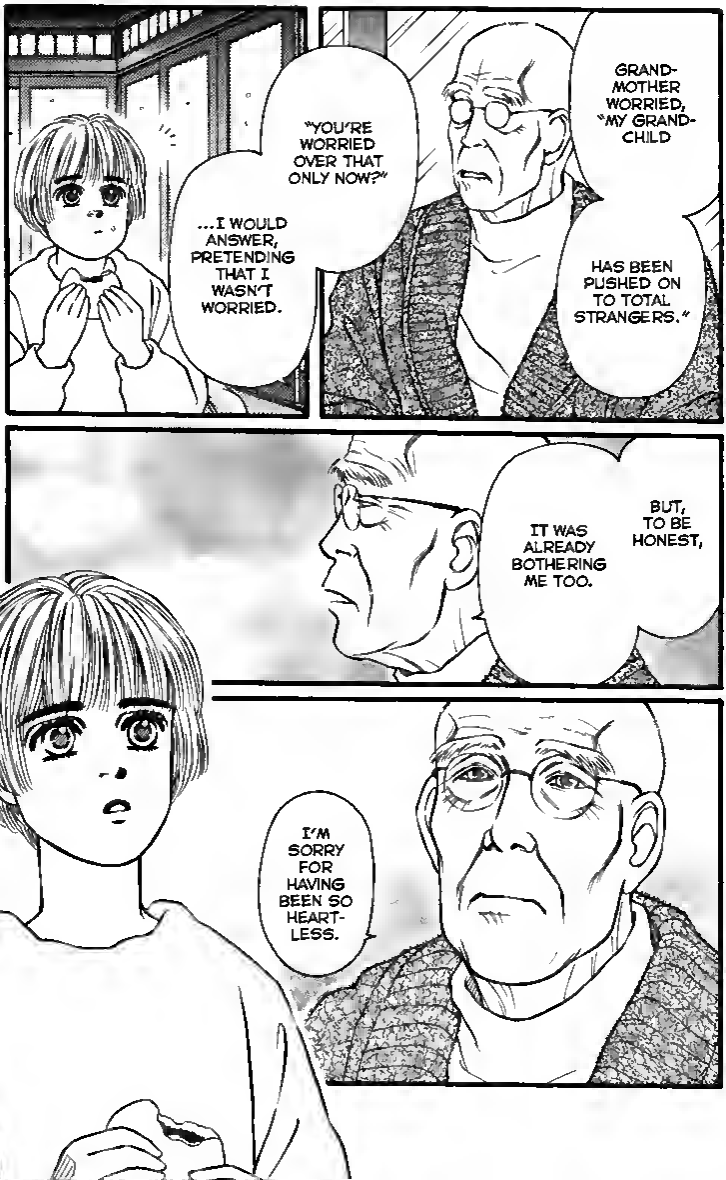
WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?


SO THAT IDIOT SHIGERU WENT TO YOUR PLACE, EH...
THAT SO?
YOU'RE MOEKO'S DAUGHTER?

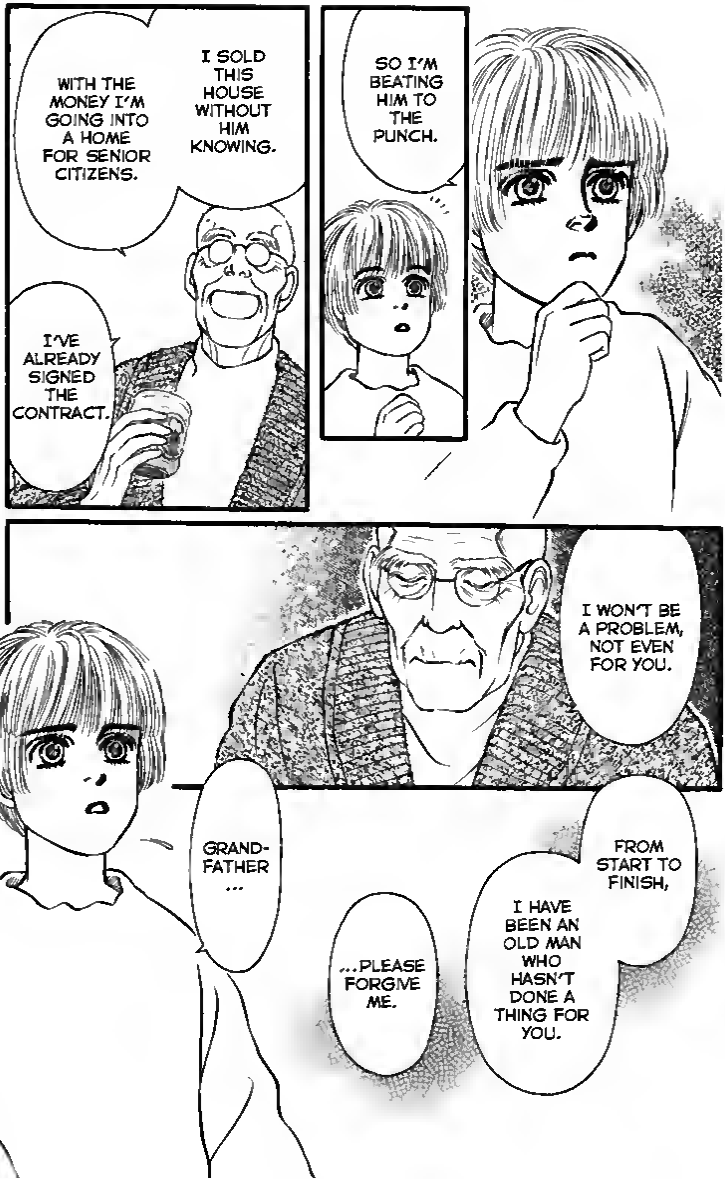
YOU WANT A NIKUMAN?

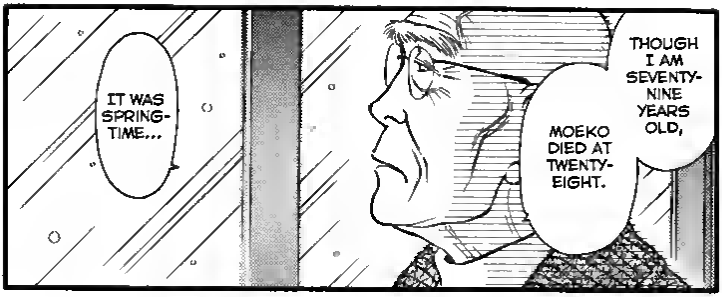
I BOUGHT SOME ON THE WAY BACK FROM THE CLINIC.
THEY'RE MY SNACK.

I NEVER THOUGHT SHE WOULD DIE IN THAT ACCIDENT.
I SAID SOME VERY HORRIBLE THINGS.
AT THE TIME I FOUND OUT THAT MOEKO HAD SECRETLY GIVEN BIRTH IN TOKYO,
I HEARD YOU WERE HERE IN SAPPORO.
WHEN YOUR GRAND-MOTHER DIED,
I HEARD THAT THE CHILD WAS TAKEN BY ANOTHER MAN,
AND WITH THAT I ENTIRELY FORGOT ABOUT THE MATTER.
BY THE WAY, THE MAN WHO TOOK YOU WASN'T YOUR TRUE FATHER.

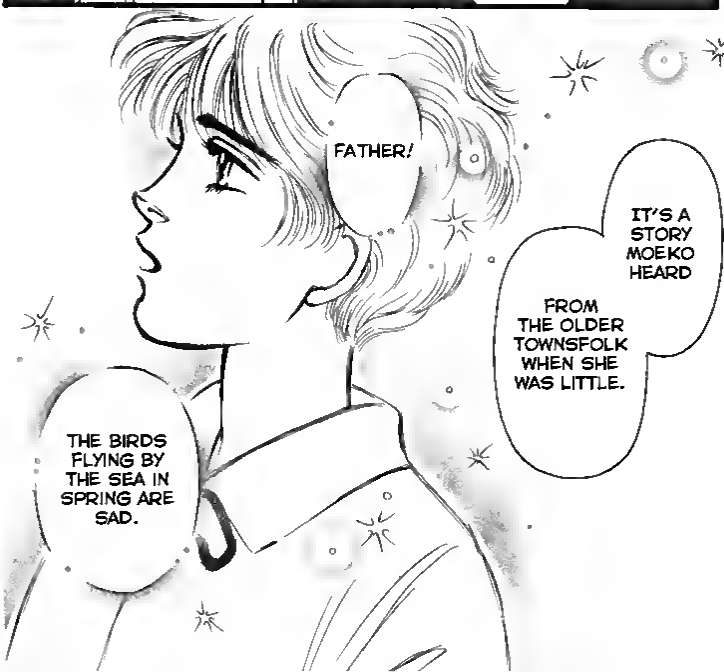

GRAND-MOTHER WORRIED, "MY GRAND-CHILD
HAS BEEN PUSHED ON TO TOTAL STRANGERS."
"YOU'RE WORRIED OVER THAT ONLY NOW?"
...I WOULD ANSWER, PRETENDING THAT I WASN'T WORRIED.
BUT, TO BE HONEST,
IT WAS ALREADY BOTHERING ME TOO.
I'M SORRY FOR HAVING BEEN SO HEART-LESS.

I FELT RATHER SHEEPISH BUYING THEM.
THEN WON'T THERE BE ANY LEFT FOR YOU?
EAT THIS ONE TOO.
IT USED TO BE A LIQUOR STORE.
HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH EATING ALONE?
MANY DIFFERENT OLD FRIENDS COME AND VISIT ME.
WHAT I CAN'T TOLERATE IS THAT MISERABLE SON OF MINE.
HE SEEMS TO BE WAITING FOR ME TO DIE.

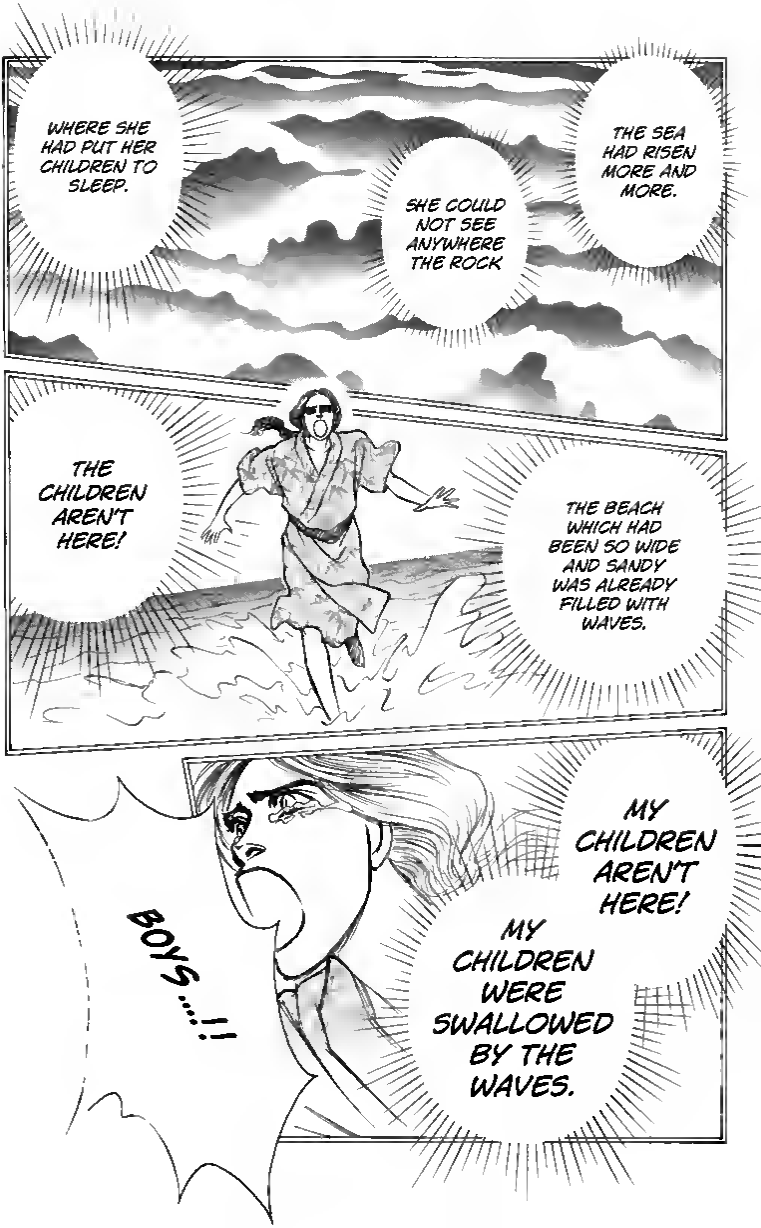

I SOLD THIS HOUSE WITHOUT HIM KNOWING.
WITH THE MONEY I'M GOING INTO A HOME FOR SENIOR CITIZENS.
I'VE ALREADY SIGNED THE CONTRACT.
SO I'M BEATING HIM TO THE PUNCH.
I WON'T BE A PROBLEM, NOT EVEN FOR YOU.
FROM START TO FINISH, I HAVE BEEN AN OLD MAN WHO HASN'T DONE A THING FOR YOU.
...PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
GRAND-FATHER ...

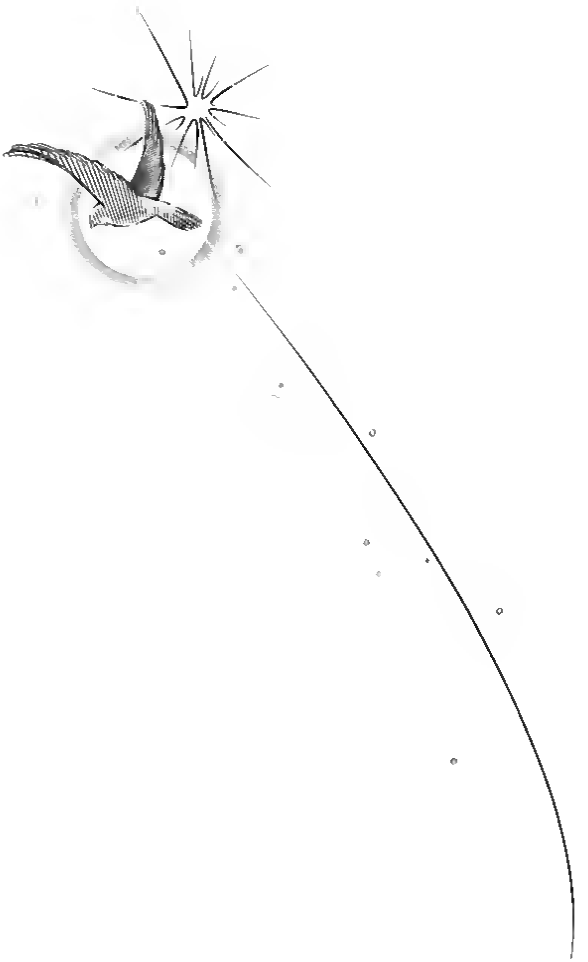

IT WAS SPRING-TIME...
MOEKO DIED AT TWENTY-EIGHT.
THOUGH I AM SEVENTY-NINE YEARS OLD,

EH?
HAVE YOU HEARD THE STORY OF THE CRYING BIRDS BY THE SEA?


FATHER!
IT'S A STORY MOEKO HEARD FROM THE OLDER TOWNSFOLK WHEN SHE WAS LITTLE.
THE BIRDS FLYING BY THE SEA IN SPRING ARE SAD.

LONG AGO THERE WAS A MOTHER WITH SMALL CHILDREN, YOU SEE.
BECAUSE THEY HAD NOTHING TO EAT,
THEY WENT TO THE SEA TO GATHER SHELL-FISH.
THE SEA-GULLS?
NO, THEY'RE SMALLER BIRDS.
ON A FLAT ROCK NEARBY TO SLEEP AS SHE DUG FOR SHELLFISH.
SHE PUT THE CHILDREN SHE HELD IN HER ARMS
THE MOTHER WAS PLEASED.
THE TIDE WAS OUT, SO THE SHELLFISH WERE EXPOSED ON THE BEACH.
WHEN SHE LOOKED, THE SEA...
SHE HAD COME A LONG WAY FROM WHERE SHE WAS AT FIRST.
SAYING "AH, I'M HAPPY," SHE LOOKED AROUND
REALLY INTO WHAT SHE WAS DOING, SHE DUG UP A LOT OF SHELLFISH.

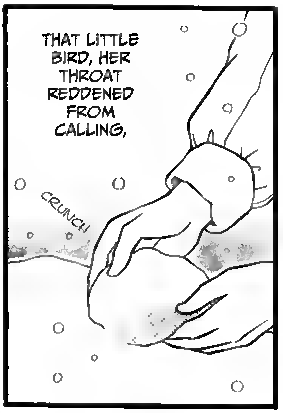

WHERE SHE HAD PUT HER CHILDREN TO SLEEP.
SHE COULD NOT SEE ANYWHERE THE ROCK
THE SEA HAD RISEN MORE AND MORE.
THE CHILDREN AREN'T HERE!
THE BEACH WHICH HAD BEEN SO WIDE AND SANDY WAS ALREADY FILLED WITH WAVES.
MY CHILDREN AREN'T HERE!
MY CHILDREN WERE SWALLOWED BY THE WAVES.
BOYS....!!

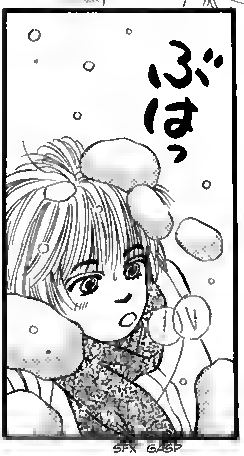


SHE CRIES WITH A SAD, LONELY VOICE.
THAT LITTLE BIRD, HER THROAT TURNING RED,
CALLS OUT THE NAMES OF HER CHILDREN.
EVEN NOW SHE CRIES.
EVEN NOW SHE SEARCH-ES.

SO SAID MOEKO, CRYING AS SHE DID.
SHE DIED BEFORE EITHER OF HER PARENTS OR HER CHILD...
YOU CAN BLAME ME IF YOU WISH.
THAT MOEKO DIDN'T REGISTER YOUR BIRTH
MAY HAVE BEEN BECAUSE HER COMPANION WAS A COWARD,
OR BECAUSE I DIDN'T FORGIVE HER.
DON'T BLAME IT ON FAMILY HONOR AND OTHER SUCH FOOLISH THINGS.
THAT SUCH A SENILE OLD FOOL LIKE ME HASN'T DIED
WAS PERHAPS SO THAT I COULD TELL YOU THIS...

CRIES WITH HER SAD, SORROWFUL VOICE...





SFX: GASP

SFX: FALL

SFX: WOBBLE

FU FU
ENOUGH ALREADY
I ALREADY KNEW IT
I'M SORRY TOO...
I WAS ALWAYS THE STRANGER HERE
I'M SORRY
STOP CRYING ALREADY
IT'S OKAY NOW

SFX: PAT!
ポン!
WHAT'RE YOU CRYING FOR?
SUMIRE-SAN...
NO MATTER HOW LONG I WAIT,
YOU NEVER ASK ME FOR HELP.
I CAME TO WATCH YOU AND HAVE MY HANDS GO NUMB.
HOW WAS YOUR BIRTH PARENT'S HOUSE?
...SUMIRE-SAN
ONCE SPRING COMES,
LET'S COME BACK TO LOOK AT THE SEA HERE.
EH?

CHAPTER 57 - CRYING BIRDS BY THE SEA ■ THE END

Aaahhh

Part One

I'm not good at parties. Between bad eyes and lousy study habits... I've had many stupid failures. For example, the year of my debut. I committed the crime of mistaking an idol who was tremendously popular in those days for a waiter and asking, "Where is the restroom?" It doesn't bother me when I don't know celebrity faces, but I'm such an idiot manga artist I don't even know the faces of the great masters. To make matters worse, with anything more than three meters away out of focus, my intuition is better than my eyesight. The great master was more than willing enough to wave his hand towards someone like myself. As for me, I found out afterwards that I had been smiling ear to ear and waving my hand at an entirely different person. I didn't have the courage to come closer and ask "Who are you?" to someone I didn't know. And once I realized who they were I also knew how rude it was that I didn't know who they were. Once I realized this, I became frantic. And though I was frantic, I didn't show it on my face. I simply smiled, piling up my rudeness bit by bit.

What should I do!!

When I calm down and think it over later, I'll come up with some way to make the best of it.

What's the point of thinking it over later!?